Public Notice

Date:



Applicant:

Town of Erwin

Published: December 5, 2003

Expires: January 3, 2004

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District CELRB-TD-R RE: 2002-02249(1) Section: NY 404

Application for Permit under Authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The Town of Erwin Industrial Development Agency has requested a Department of the Army Permit to fill 0.87 acres of wetland in conjunction with the expansion/development of the Corning-Painted Post Airport. The airport is located at 342 Victor Highway, in the Town of Erwin, Steuben County, New York. The proposed project is located at the Corning-Painted Post Airport and entails a 260 linear foot expansion of the existing runway with a full length parallel taxiway, construction of an aircraft parking apron, aircraft storage buildings, a paved access road and automobile parking. The purpose of the project is to bring the airport into compliance with FAA design standards and to provide year-round usage of the airport. Approximately 1.65 acres of wetland have been identified on the site, all of which are subject to Federal regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The project consists of the following:

- A. Fill 0.24 acres of palustrine emergent wetland in association with the proposed runway expansion. The wetland, designated as Wetland "B'" on Figure 3 of 4, is located along Interstate 86 at the northeastern edge of the project boundary and is fed from a culvert running under I-86 from a drainage ditch on the other side. Water seems to be collected from runoff off of the pronounced hillside. Wetland "B'" is characterized by persistent emergent vegetation and a saturated water regime and drains into Wetland "B."
- B. Fill 0.63 acres of intermittent riverine wetland in association with the expansion of the airport facilities. The wetland, designated as Wetland "B" on Figure 3 of 4, is a total of 1.08 acres in size within the proposed project area. It runs southerly from the culvert under I-86 and continues south easterly throughout the project site. Historically this wetland may have been an intermittent tributary to Meads Creek. Wetland "B" is characterized by a sand/silt streambed at it's northern end and then seems to lose stream and wetland characteristics as it gets closer to Meads Creek. Most of the southeastern end of the system has been filled with dirt and debris over a period of many years.
- C. As mititgation for the unavoidable loss of 0.87 acres of wetland, a proposed 0.92 acres of emergent and riverine wetland will be created

to the south of the proposed project area flowing southeast towards Meads Creek. A culvert shall be placed under the proposed runway expansion connecting the emergent/riverine wetlands starting from the culvert under I-86. The runoff/drainage caught in this culvert will empty into a proposed emergent wetland to the south of the proposed runway and continue on through a proposed riverine wetland system which will tie into the existing riverine wetland as shown on Figure 4 of 4. This mitigation will replace and maintain the retention/detention and drainage functions of the existing system.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Aaron C. Smith, who can be contacted by calling (716) 879-4340, or by e-mail at: aaron.c.smith@lrb01.usace.army.mil

The following authorization(s) may be required for this project:

Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

There are no registered historic properties or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207, and should be marked to the attention of Aaron C. Smith, or by e-mail at: aaron.c.smith@lrb01.usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

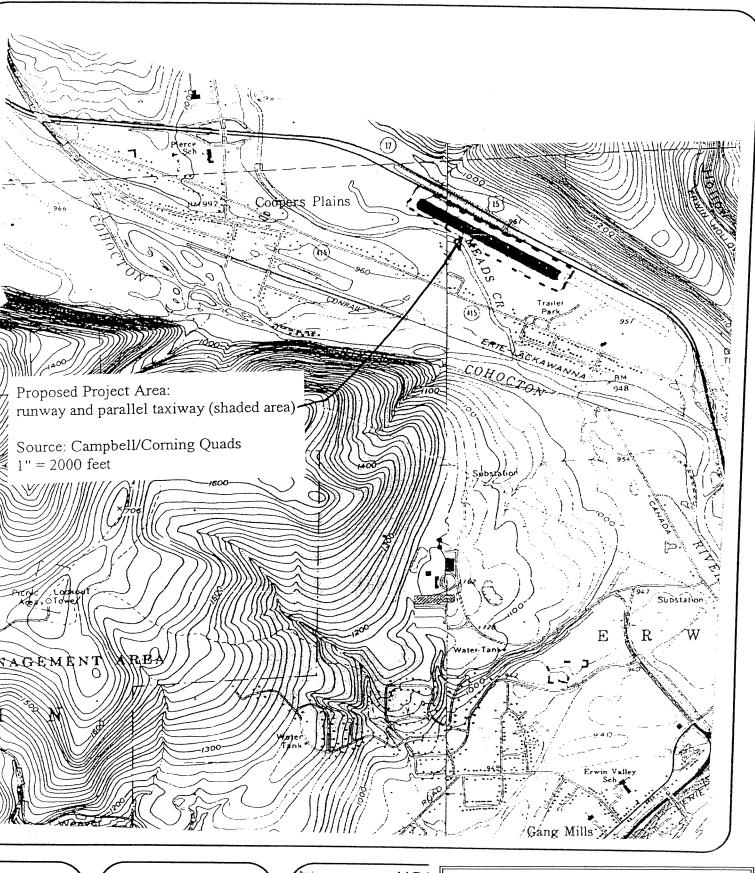
The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the

proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Storn V Meters for Thomas C. Switala Chief, Regulatory Branch

It is requested that this notice be posted NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.



N.T.S.

LMC

e F.Wegman, P.E. wn R. Bray, P.E.

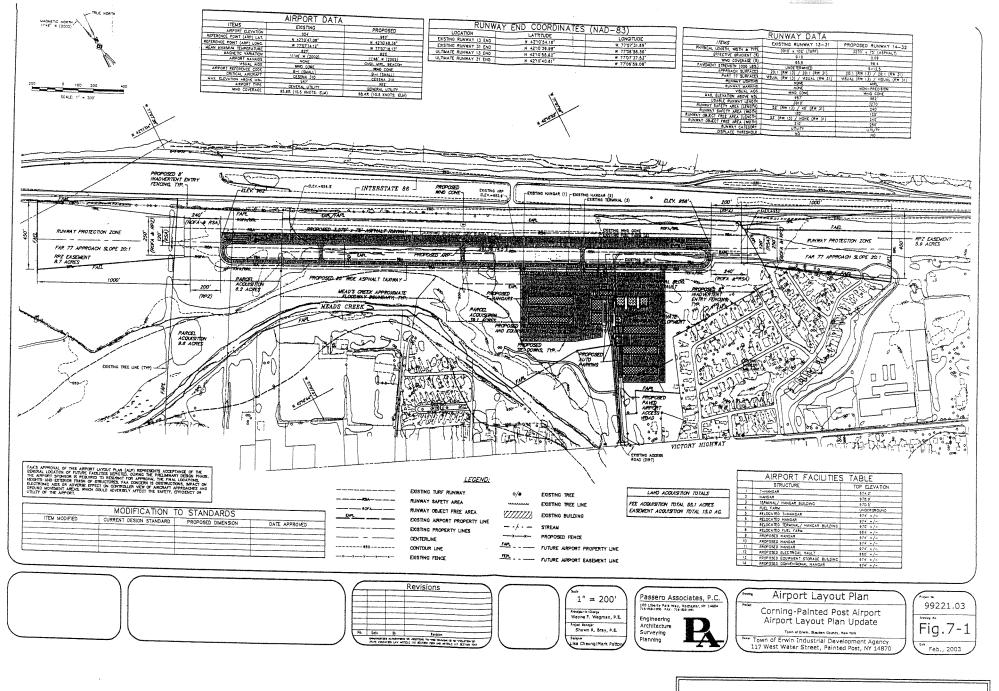
Engineering Architecture Surveying Planning



US(Corning-Pair Wetland

Owner Town of Erwin Indus 117 West Water Stre

ERWIN, TOWN OF D/A Processing No. 2002-02249(1) Steuben County, New York Quad: CORNING Sheet 1 of 4

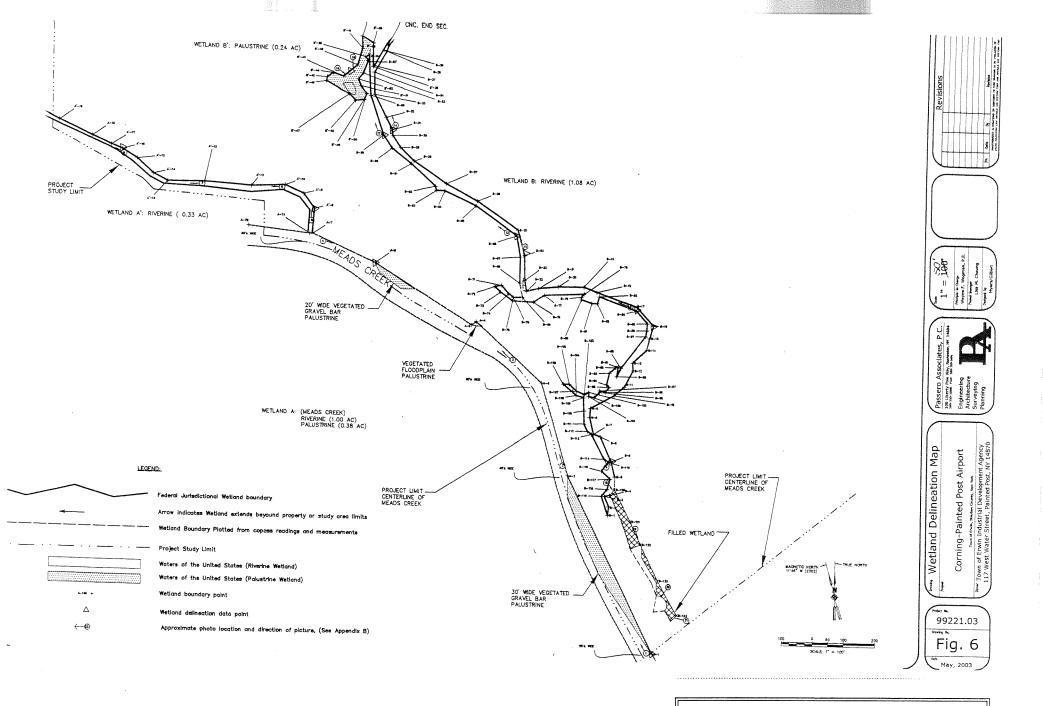


ERWIN, TOWN OF

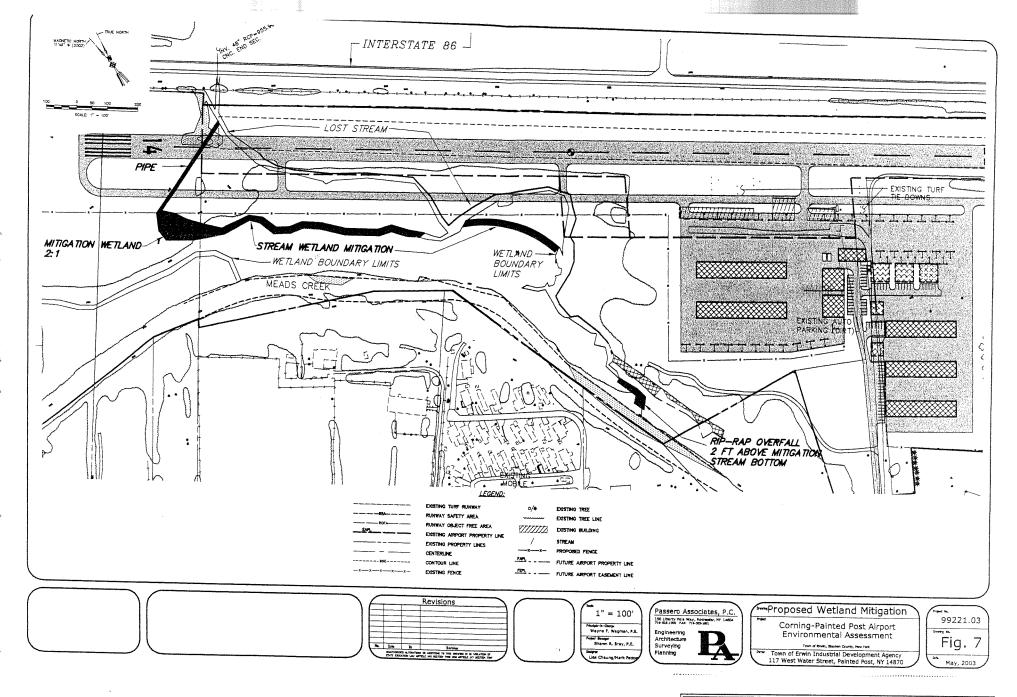
D/A Processing No. 2002-02249(1)

Steuben County, New York Quad: CORNING

Sheet 2 of 4



ERWIN, TOWN OF D/A Processing No. 2002-02249(1) Steuben County, New York Quad: CORNING Sheet 3 of 4



ERWIN, TOWN OF

D/A Processing No. 2002-02249(1)

Steuben County, New York Quad: CORNING

Sheet 4 of 4